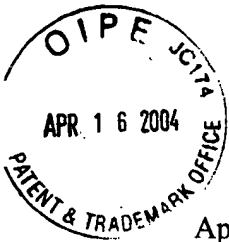


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No. : 09/684,383
Applicant : Gertrud HOETTEN
Filed : 10 October 2000
TC/A.U. : 1646
Examiner : P.M. Mertz

Confirmation No. 7142

Docket No. : 2923-120
Customer No. : 6449

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed 16 January 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Material added has been indicated by underlining (underlining) and material deleted has been indicated by strikethrough (~~strikethrough~~).

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.